



Vision & Literacy

Partners Creating Opportunities

408.262.1349

Sobrato Center for Nonprofits, 540 Valley Way, Milpitas CA, 95035

www.visionliteracy.org

Tutor & Volunteer Newsletter

November 2009



LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORTS VISION LITERACY WITH FUNDRAISER IN GILROY

Arteaga's Food Center in Gilroy hosted a community fundraiser on November 14, resulting in a donation of \$3,250 to Vision Literacy. The Thanksgiving-themed event attracted hundreds of guests and featured a variety of fun activities, including bookmaking for children, a dance performance by Los Diamantes, and appearances by boxing champion Robert "The Ghost" Guerrero and children's author Dave Keane, creator of the *Joe Sherlock, Kid Detective* series. Prizes for a local school reading challenge, co-sponsored by Vision Literacy, were also awarded during the day.

Vision Literacy's participation in the event was made possible by Arteaga's owner Lupe Lopez, who also contracts with Vision Literacy to provide on-site ESL instruction for her employees. Nearly a dozen Vision Literacy volunteers and friends also donated their time to work at the event.

BE A SMALL GROUP TUTOR AT MACSA!

A tutor is needed to help advanced students in the ESL class at MACSA Youth Center in San Jose. The instructor-led class meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-noon during the school year. If you are interested, contact Marina Dols at 408.262.1249.

LEARNER OPPORTUNITY: LAST CHANCE TO ENROLL IN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Adult Learner Leadership Institute (ALLI) is a dynamic training program designed for adult learners to improve their leadership, communication and advocacy skills (not to mention their confidence). Benicia Public Library will host the institute this year and is enrolling students through Nov. 30. The ALLI program consists of one, day-long session per month for six months. It features exciting speakers and discussions and provides learners with new skills that help them at home, at work and in their communities. The program, which is supported by the California State Library, is free and includes breakfast, lunch and training materials. Transportation costs are reimbursed. Applications and information can be obtained at <http://www.benicialibrary.org/literacy> or by calling the Vision Literacy office at 408.262.1349.

BOARD PRESIDENT PROFILED IN ACTIVE OVER 50 MAGAZINE

Sandy Reed, President of the Friends of Vision Literacy, was recently profiled in the fall issue of *Active Over 50*. The magazine is published by fellow board member Larry Hayes. To see the article, visit www.activeover50.com or pick up a copy of the free publication at your local library.



Tutors: Please submit your monthly progress report by mail or online at www.visionliteracy.org. Reports are due December 3. Thank you!

CHILDCARE PROGRAM FOR LEARNERS RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM SVCF FUND

A donation of \$2,600 was recently awarded to Vision Literacy from a donor-advised fund at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. The money will support childcare for learners participating in Vision Literacy's twice-weekly ESL classes at the MACSA Youth Center in San Jose. The money helps replace funds previously provided by FIRST 5.

JEWELRY SALES BENEFIT VISION LITERACY

Looking for affordable, unique holiday gifts? Vision Literacy volunteer Minal Argawal has a



magnificent collection of jewelry for sale online and will donate 25 percent of her profit to Vision Literacy when you mention our organization.

The jewelry, made of sterling silver and semiprecious stones, ranges from \$5.00 to \$40.00 and can be viewed at <http://agarwalminal.googlepages.com/myjewelrycollection> and <http://picasaweb.google.com/agarwalminal>. This is a great opportunity to shop for a cause during this giving season!

TUTOR TIP: BRAINFUSE OFFERS EXTRA HELP

Do your learners or their family members need extra help with skill building or homework? If so, tell them about Brainfuse, an online tutoring service offered by both the Santa Clara County Library system and the Mountain View Library. On Brainfuse, adults can receive live online help from trained adult education specialists in areas such as U.S. Citizenship testing, GED testing, resume and cover letter writing, and core subject education (English/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and Writing). Tutoring for school-age children is also provided for a wide variety of subjects.

To access Brainfuse, an individual must have a library card. The link to Santa Clara County Brainfuse service can be found at

<http://www.santaclaracountylib.org/brainfuse>.

For Mountain View, go to

http://www.mountainview.gov/city_hall/library/online_resources.asp. If you have any questions,

please contact your local librarian.

More Thanks for Tutors

Vision Literacy learner Ernestina Barrios delivered the following comments as part of last month's Volunteer Appreciation Event. Barrios has been a learner in the South County for three years.



Good morning to all. My name is Ernestina. I'm here because I want to thank the literacy program and all the tutors that care about people who need help, especially my tutors Elvia, Soledad, and Gretchen. They are very nice to everyone who wants to learn English. I feel very happy because now I can make my appointments, go the bank, look for jobs, read books with my children, and I can help my four-year-old daughter with her homework. Thanks to my tutors, I have a better job. I hope that the program stays the same because we need it. Thank you very much.

VISION LITERACY PILOTS AMERICA LEARNS PROGRAM FOR ONLINE SUPPORT

As part of a statewide project funded by California Library Literacy Services, Vision Literacy has begun testing a new support and reporting method offered online by America Learns. The service offers user-friendly forms and resources that reflect the Inspired Learning Model (ILM) – the enhanced tutor-training curriculum launched by Vision Literacy earlier this year. A group of 16 tutors who participated in the new training model are currently piloting the service and reporting on its capabilities. Stay tuned for results in the New Year.

If you have a question, comment or submission for the newsletter, please contact Kristin Seitz at 408.262.1349 or info@visionliteracy.org.
Next deadline for submissions: Dec. 13.

